(b) If so, the names of the said minority groups and the names of the places where female circumcision is practicsed alongwith the number of girls on whom the operation performed during the last three years;

(c) the nature of the ill effects of females circumcision on the health of women; and

(d) the action contemplated to be taken to curb the practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (d) Information has been called for from the States/UTs and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The immediate and long term health consequences of female genital mutilation vary according to the type and severity of the procedure performed.

T.B. Vaccine

35. SHRI AJMEERA CHANDULAL:

SHRI L. RAMANA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whethe the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh has developed a new vaccine for treatment of tuberculosis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps proposed to produce it on a mass scale and to popularise it;

(d) whether BCG vaccine has become ineffective in controlling the spread of the disease; and

(e) if so, the reasons for its use being continued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Do not arise.

(c) Do not arise.

(d) BCG vaccine has been demonstrated to prevent disseminated forms of TB.

(e) Do not arise.

Medicinal Plants

36. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has taken steps to promote the cultivation of medicinal plants;

(b) if so, the details of action plan formulated for the purpose;

(c) whether some Central Ministries and State Governments are involved in this programme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Department of Indian Systems of Medicine & Homoeopathy in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is implementing schemes for setting up/expansion of herbal gardens for cultivation of identified species of medicinal plants used in ISM & H and for development of Agro-techniques for cultivation of medicinal plants. Under these schemes financial assistance is given to Government/Semi Government organisations.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. Ministry of Environment and Forest is implementing a Centrally sponsored scheme for conservation and development of non-timber forest produce including medicinal plants. This scheme is implemented through State Forest Departments. Similarly, Ministry of Agriculture & Cooperation is implementing a Centrally sponsored scheme through Agriculture Universities, CSIR and State Government Departments for the development of medicinal and aromatic plants.

Janta Darbar

37. SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the objective behind organising "Janta Darbar" at the residence of Prime Minister and the arrangement made therefor;

(b) the number of complaints received on 30th May, 1997 in the "Janta Darbar" and the section of Society from which these complaints were received and the action taken thereon;

(c) whether all the complaints received have since been acknowledged; and

(d) the arrangements likely to be made to expedite action on the complaints received from the public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) Janta Milan programmes are organised at the Prime Minister's residence to enable the Prime Minister to have a direct interaction with people and knowledge of the various grievances of the public. Public has free access to meet the Prime Minister during the time fixed for it.

(b) to (d) During the Janta Milan of 30.5.97, Prime Minister received 146 petitions from all such people who came to express their grievance to the Prime Minister. All the petitions received have been scrutinised and forwarded for appropriate action to the concerned authority as per the prescribed procedure. The position of petitions received on 30th May, 1997 is as under:-

No. of letters received	Acknowledged	Filed	Report called	Demand met	Demand not met	Not substantiated	Interim reply	Report received	Report pending
146	126	4	142	2	5	1	5	13	133

Privatisation of Infrastructural Facilities

38. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA:

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned, "Drinking Water, sanitation facilities may be prvatised in metros" appearing in the 'Financial Express', New Delhi dated June 25, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the time by which these facilities are likely to be privatised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In view of the huge gap between the resources required for providing safe adequate drinking water supply and sanitation facilities for the urban population and the availability of financial resources, the Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment has been planned to convene a National Workshop of States and Central/Private Bodies concerned with the subject to discuss and evolve ways and means/guidelines for attracting private sector investment/participation.

(c) and (d) It is the policy of the Government to encourage private investment in providing infrastructural facilities. However, as water supply and sanitation is a State subject, it is mainly for the State Governments and Urban Local Bodies to take a final view in the matter.

Subletting of Government Accommodation

39. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government quarters are still being illegally sub-letted particularly in Nanakpura and Sarojini Nagar in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether the Government have conducted any inquiry/check in this regard;

(c) if so, the details of the findings of the enquiry made; and

(d) the steps the Government propose to take to check sub-letting of the Government accommodation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) to (d) A survey of Government houses in different areas including Sarojini Nagar and Nanakpura was undertaken in 1995. On the basis of inspection reports, show-cause notices were issued in the suspected cases of subletting in 367 & 212 cases in Sarojini Nagar and Nanakpura respectively. After following the prescribed procedure, cancellation orders have been issued in 143 & 92 cases in Sarojini Nagar and Nanakpura respectively. Conducting such inspections is a continuous process on receipt on any complaints or suspected subletting.

[English]

Fissile Materials Production Cut-off Treaty

40. SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR:

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal through international aegis soliciting India's ratification of the "Fissile Materials Production Cut-off Treaty";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any decision in connection with the ratification of the aforesaid treaty; and

(d) its implications in relation to India's nuclear security and disarmament policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALIM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) to (c) No Sir. Negotiations for a Fissile Materials Cut-off Treaty have not commenced. As such the question of ratification does not arise.

(d) India has consistently called for a universal and verifiable ban on production of fissionable material for weapons purposes and believes that a multilaterally negotiated, universally applicable and non-discriminatory treaty banning the production of fissile materials for weapon purposes should be part of a step by step process of global nuclear disarmament aimed at achieving the complete elimination of all nuclear weapons within a specified time frame.